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Message Text

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11
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 FEA-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05

OES-03 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 XMB-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /114 W
---------- 091536
R 121534Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6645
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4648

ALSO FOR NRC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, TECH, NL
SUBJECT: PROPOSED US-DUTCH-SWISS SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS TO SOUTH AFRICA

REF: THE HAGUE 4510

1. STATE SECRETARY KOOIMANS CALLED ME IN AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 11 TO URGE, IN A REVERSAL OF POSITION IN REFTEL, THAT DUTCH PARTICIPATION IN PROPOSED SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS TO SOUTH AFRICA NOT REPEAT NOT BE MADE PUBLIC IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. HE SAID THE GON IS CONCERNED THAT IF THE PARLIAMENT LEARNS OF DUTCH PARTICIPATION THROUGH THE PRESS IT WILL BE MUCH HARDER TO SELL PARLIAMENT ON ACQUIESCING TO THE TRANSACTION. KOOIMANS ADVISED THAT THE DUTCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS
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BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE DEPARTMENT

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2. KOOIMANS INDICATED THE CABINET HAD DONE CONSIDERABLE SOUL-SEARCHING PRIOR TO APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION, WEIGHING LIBERAL ANTIPATHY TO APARTHEID AGAINST FINANCIAL ADVANTAGES, THE LATTER PREVAILING, DUTCH ECONOMY BEING IN A SLOUGH AND UNEMPLOYMENT RISING.

3. KOOIMANS CAUTIONED THAT QUOTE WE MUST PLAY THIS EXTREMELY CAREFULLY BECAUSE OF THE DUTCH POLITICAL CLIMATE UNQUOTE, ILLUSTRATING WHAT HE FEARED COULD HAPPEN BY READING A NEWS ACCOUNT OF A NIGERIAN ATTACK ON THE FRG FOR ALLEGEDLY COOPERATING WITH SOUTH AFRICA BY SALE OF A FRG REACTOR.

4. KOOIMANS SAID HIS IMMEDIATE CONCERN WAS PUBLICITY THAT MIGHT EMERGE DURING EXIM BANK LOAN PROCEDURES WHICH WOULD INVOLVE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHEN THIS IS DUE TO OCCUR.

5. KOOIMANS IS NO DOUBT RIGHT THAT THIS ISSUE WILL BE A HOT ONE AMONG THE DUTCH LIBERALS BUT WE FEEL HERE THAT THE MAJOR GON CONCERN IS THAT PUBLICITY NOW LINKING NETHERLANDS WITH SOUTH AFRICA WOULD UNDERCUT THEIR CAREFULLY NURTURED IMAGE OF THE DUTCH AS THE BRIDGE TO THE THIRD WORLD AND CAUSE SPECIFIC EMBARRASSMENT TO JAN PRONK, DUTCH DEVELOPMENT AID MINISTER, WHO HAS JUST SUCCEEDED IN GETTING HIMSELF ELECTED TO THE MOST IMPORTANT CHAIRMANSHIPS OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL UNGA.

6. I TOLD LOOIMANS WE WOULD KEEP SILENT HERE ON DUTCH PARTICIPATION IN SO FAR AS POSSIBLE AND WOULD PASS ON HIS REPORT TO WASHINGTON. ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE TEMPTING TO LET THE DUTCH STEW IN THEIR OWN SANCTIMONIOUS JUICE FOR A CHANGE, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE USG ACCOMMODATE THEIR REQUEST.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: KINDLY ADVISE WHEN PRESENTATION TO CONGRESS WILL TAKE PLACE AND IF IT WILL BE A MATTER OF PUBLICITY.
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